

NAN-0201

PATENT APPLICATION *4/1*

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

EBIHARA et al.

I.A. Appln. No.: PCT/JP00/04179

Application No.: 10/018,215

Examiner: unassigned.

Filed: December 18, 2001

For: PROCESS FOR ELECTROLYTICALLY COLORING ALUMINUM MATERIALS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENTCommissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Date: March 15, 2002

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO-1449 is a listing of documents known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56.

A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.

As provided in 37 CFR §1.98(d), copies of the documents are not being provided since they were previously cited by or submitted to the Patent Office in parent application Serial No. _____, filed _____ of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* prior art reference against the claims of the present application.

Concise Explanation of Relevancy of the Document

(Fill out if no English translation, partial translation or English abstract is available)

Any document having neither English translation nor English abstract has been cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or its related application, a copy of which is attached hereto, accompanied by English translation of at least relevant part, if it is not

in English. English translation of the document is not readily available; however, the absence of such translations does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted document (37 C.F.R. §1.98 and MPEP §609).

The relevance of a document having no English translation or abstract is explained in the parent application above.

_____.

1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the U.S. filing date or within three months from the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.491 in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b), OR is being filed concurrent with filing of the Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) or the Request for Continued Examination (RCE). No fee is required (37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)).

2. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits in the present application. No fee is required. If, however, a first Office Action on the merits is issued, no fee is required in view of the statement below (37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)).

a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1).

b. I hereby certify that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(2).

Further, if a notice of allowance under 37 CFR §1.311 or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application has been mailed prior to filing of this Information Disclosure Statement, the Patent Office is authorized to charge \$180.00 under 37 CFR §§ 1.97(d)(2) and 1.17(p) in view of the statement above under 37 CFR §1.97(e). Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 18-0013 as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information.

3. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits in the present application. No fee is required (37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)). If, however, a first Office Action on the merits is issued,

please charge deposit account 18-0013 in the amount of \$180.00 for payment of the fee under 37 CFR §1.17(p). Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 18-0013 as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information.

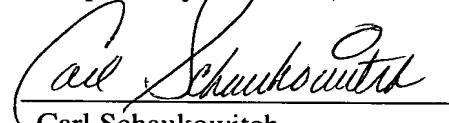
- 4. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a final action under 37 CFR §1.113, a notice of allowance under 37 CFR §1.311 or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application. No fee is required in view of the statement below (37 C.F.R. §1.97(c)).
 - a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1).
 - b. I hereby certify that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(2).
- If, however, a final action under 37 CFR §1.113, a notice of allowance under 37 CFR §1.311 or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application has been mailed prior to filing of this Information Disclosure Statement (37 C.F.R. §1.97(d)). The Patent Office is authorized to charge \$180.00 under 37 CFR §§ 1.97(d)(2) and 1.17(p) in view of the statement above under 37 CFR §1.97(e).
- 5. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a final action under 37 CFR §1.113, a notice of allowance under 37 CFR §1.311 or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application (37 C.F.R. §1.97(c)). Please charge deposit account 18-0013 in the amount of \$180.00 for payment of the fee under 37 CFR §1.17(p).
- 6. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a final action under 37 CFR §1.113, a notice of allowance under 37 CFR §1.311 or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, but before payment of the Issue Fee (37 C.F.R. §1.97(d)). Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) that the Information Disclosure Statement be considered. The Patent Office is authorized to charge \$180.00 under 37 CFR §§ 1.97(d)(2) and 1.17(p) in view of the statement below.

a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1).

b. I hereby certify that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(2).

7. Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 18-0013 as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information.

Respectfully submitted,



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FORM PTO-1449		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY. DOCKET NO. : NAN-0201 85160-0201	SERIAL NO. 10/018,215
LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>				APPLICANT: Ebihara et al.	
				FILING DATE: December 18, 2001	I.A. No: PCT/JP00/04179

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA	4,042,468	August 16, 1977	Hasegawa, et al.	204	42	
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
							YES NO PART.
	AG	S54-023664	August 15, 1979	Japan			X
	AH	S58-025495	February 15, 1983	Japan			X
	AI	S59-173294	October 1, 1984	Japan			X
	AJ	S62-278296	December 3, 1987	Japan			X
	AK	H08-041685	February 13, 1996	Japan			X
	AL						

OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

AM	
AN	
AO	

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.